BILLING CODE 6717-01-P DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP Petal Gas Storage, LLC

Docket No. CP13-96-000

Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Southeast Market Expansion Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Southeast Market Expansion Project jointly proposed by Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP (Gulf South) and Petal Gas Storage, LLC (Petal Gas Storage) in the above-referenced docket. Gulf South requests authorization to construct, operate, and maintain a natural gas transmission pipeline and related facilities in Mississippi and Alabama that would provide an additional 510,500 dekatherms per day of natural gas capacity to the southeastern United States.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Southeast Market Expansion Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EA. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis.

The proposed Southeast Market Expansion Project includes the following facilities:

- approximately 70.1 miles of 30-inch-diameter and 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Jasper, Forrest, Perry, Greene, George, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi and Mobile County, Alabama;
- one new 15,900-horsepower (hp) compressor station located in Forrest County, Mississippi (Forrest Compressor Station) at the beginning of the project pipeline;

- one new 15,900-hp compressor station located at the intersection of Gulf South's existing Index 818 pipeline and Petal Gas Storage transmission facilities in Jasper County, Mississippi (Jasper Compressor Station);
- one new 2,415-hp compressor station located at the intersection of Gulf South's existing Index 300 pipeline and the Pascagoula Lateral in Jackson County, Mississippi (Moss Point Compressor Station);
- a new meter and regulator station and pig¹ launcher/receiver facility at approximate milepost 42.3 of the project pipeline at an interconnect with Florida Gas Transmission Company, LLC's existing pipeline; and
- associated appurtenant aboveground facilities along the proposed pipeline including mainline valves, pig launchers and receivers, and a pressure limiting facility.

The FERC staff mailed copies of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; newspapers and libraries in the project area; and parties to this proceeding. In addition, the EA is available for public viewing on the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Public Reference Room 888 First Street NE, Room 2A Washington, DC 20426 (202) 502-8371

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that the Commission has the opportunity to consider your comments prior to making its decision on this project, it is important that we receive your comments in Washington, DC on or before **September 23, 2013.**

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to file your comments with the Commission. In all instances please reference the project docket number (CP13-96-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of

¹ A "pig" is a tool that is inserted into and moves through the pipeline, and is used for cleaning the pipeline, internal inspections, or other purposes.

comments and has expert staff available to assist you at 202-502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

- (1) You can file your comments electronically using the <u>eComment</u> feature located on the Commission's website (<u>www.ferc.gov</u>) under the link to <u>Documents and Filings</u>. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;
- (2) You can also file your comments electronically using the <u>eFiling</u> feature on the Commission's website (<u>www.ferc.gov</u>) under the link to <u>Documents and Filings</u>. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "<u>eRegister</u>." You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing"; or
- (3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE, Room 1A Washington, DC 20426

Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).² Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. The Commission grants affected landowners and others with environmental concerns intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which no other party can adequately represent. Simply filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **(866) 208-FERC**, or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search," and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP13-96). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact

² See the previous discussion on the methods for filing comments.

FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm.

Dated: August 23, 2013.

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

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